

Members

Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Chairperson
Sen. Ron Alting
Sen. Connie Lawson
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Earline Rogers
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Greg Porter
Rep. Duane Cheney
Rep. Denny Oxley
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Robert Hoffman
Rep. Sue Scholer



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION ISSUES

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Authority: Legislative Council Resolution 02-1

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 23, 2001
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 6

Members Present: Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Chairperson; Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Connie Lawson; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Duane Cheney; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Robert Hoffman; Rep. Sue Scholer.

Members Absent: Rep. Denny Oxley; Rep. Greg Porter.

Chairperson Teresa Lubbers called the final meeting of the Interim Study Committee on Education Issues to order at 10:00 a.m. She distributed information from Jennifer J. Hays and E. Phelps Nichols, notes from J. Scott Turney of his testimony on October 16th, and additional information on special education cooperatives.

Copies of the draft of the final report were distributed for the Committee to review.

Chairperson Lubbers reviewed the topics assigned to the Committee.

Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts

Sen. Lubbers explained to the Committee that the Department of Commerce and other interested parties had been working on energy savings contract legislation, but had not agreed on an acceptable draft. Copies of two drafts were distributed to the Committee. The Chair

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

called on Richard Rowley from the Department of Commerce to explain the differences. Denny Costerison from the Indiana Association of School Business Officials thanked the Department of Commerce and the working group organized by the Department for their hard work on the issue. No specific bill draft was recommended by the Committee.

Indiana Special Education Co-op System

Chairperson Lubbers called on Robert Marra from the Department of Education to review the bill draft creating a task force to study the services and funding available for children and young adults with disabilities. Mr. Marra told the Committee that the use of Medicaid funding for certain special education children, S5 kids, had saved the state about \$680,000. The Committee asked if the task force should include a parent of a handicapped child. The Chair requested Senator Breaux to work on language to include a parent representative for inclusion in the bill during the legislative process. The draft was approved unanimously.

Mr. Marra reviewed the Department of Education's proposed special education cooperatives study. The study should determine if the "joint services" model continues to be an effective and efficient method of providing special education services.

School Finance Issues

The Chair reviewed the findings and recommendation in the draft report. Further explanation was requested on item 3 of the Taxpayer Equity and Student Equity finding. While Indiana has not made significant progress on equalization among school districts since 1991, the state had provided significant equalization among school districts prior to 1991.

The Committee also requested that a finding on the issue of the school formula's effect on a school's passage of a referendum also be included in the final report.

Programs to Attract and Retain Quality K-12 Teachers

Chairperson Lubbers reviewed the findings and recommendation. The Committee requested that the findings be expanded. Concern was expressed that the current findings did not express the concerns presented to the Committee. The finding should include a statement that urban and rural schools are experiencing teacher shortages and special education is experiencing teacher severe shortages.

The report, with modifications to the findings in the Programs to Attract and Retain Quality K-12 Teachers section and the School Finance Issues section, was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.